

# THE BREEZE

No. 51

St. Michael's Association

November 2017

## The 70<sup>th</sup> Project Reception!

The Reception was held on 10<sup>th</sup> November in the School Hall to thank people for their generous contributions towards the 70<sup>th</sup> Project; and to celebrate the completion of the renovation of the Hall.



The happy celebration was attended by about 80 people from far and wide. The new hall was blessed by Rev. Paul Tolhurst, School Chaplain, and the party was emceed by Peter Mallett, Acting Council Chair. The plaque of Ruby donors was unveiled to the accompaniment of heart rousing music, which was the highlight of the evening!

The attendees could relax and have a jolly good time thanks to the wonderful company, yummy finger food provided by Peter and Heather, delicious wine supplied by Wolfgang Forster of Estate Wines, and ambience-befitting music by The Tin Pan Trio. A wonderful opportunity to experience the new hall in use is during the Nativity on the 12th-13th December.

Happy Christmas and Joyous New Year to all the readers!

Satoru Hamada: President of St. Michael's Association

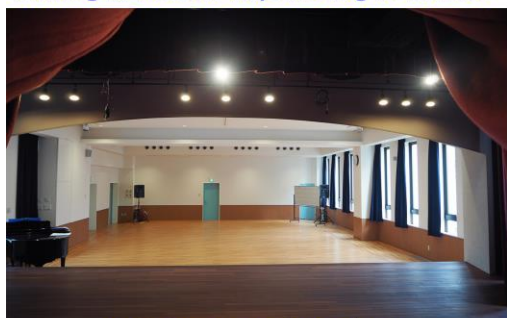


**Look  
at  
the  
New  
SMIS!**

**Awning at the stairways leading to the roof**



**Year Five Classroom**



**Hall Flooring and Windows**



**Stage**

Over the summer a transformation took place at St. Michael's International School. Phase Three of the renovation programme was completed. The east and north walls of the School were renovated, the third floor classroom upgraded, a staircase leading to the second floor corridor covered; in addition to the "pièce de resistance" a completely upgraded School Hall. A truly transformed School fit for twenty first century learning!

The work was executed with the excellent expertise of Studio Dodici ( Design and Project Management) and the building contractor Menato Kensetsu. A selection of photographs of the Phase Three work are provided here.

This wonderful achievement would not have been possible without the whole St Michael's International School community getting behind the 70th Anniversary Project fund raising. School staff and leadership, School Board and Council, Parents, and of course SMIS Alumni, all contributed to the success of this renovation programme.

We hope you will have the opportunity to visit and see this transformation for yourselves and see how much has changed to support the learning of children at St Michael's International School.

Malcolm Cross : Chair of the Building and Maintenance Committee

## Staff 2017



In July, Kane Linton joined SMIS as the ELS Assistant Coordinator. It hasn't been too long for him to be here, but it feels like he has been part of the family for a long time already! Welcome Kane!

Kane Linton  
ELS Assistant Coordinator.

Hi nice to meet you! My name is Kane Linton, I was born on the western coast of Australia in a city called Perth. It's a beautiful city and I loved growing up there. Unfortunately, Perth is the most remote capital city in the world, so when people come to Australia and visit the more popular cities on the east coast such as Sydney and Melbourne, it is just a little too far to travel for a day or two. However, if you ever get the chance to come visit my city please do, we welcome all visitors and we would love to see you! After completing university I took a year to travel around the world and it really opened my eyes to our "global village", seeing the world as a place to explore and enjoy, not just something you see on travel documentaries. When I finally settled into a long-term teaching position I worked in a remote desert community about 11 hours drive west of Ayers Rock, this experience really distilled in me a sense of pride in my work. I was able to see the effect I was having on students, both academically and personally, and I believe it set me on a lifelong path of fulfilment in the job I do. Over the course of my career to this point I have worked for 10 years on 2 separate continents, teaching students from 2 years old to 72 years old.

Japan started out as a pitstop on my journeys through Asia; however, slowly but surely it transformed my life. I feel that living in Japan is unlike living in any other place in the world, it is a land of dichotomy, mystery and serendipitous occurrences, a life in Japan is a daily adventure. I would have to say my favourite spot in Japan is the island of Yakushima, it is like a step back in time, I love the time I spend there. I have lived in Japan for almost 6 years, spending time in Hiroshima, Okayama, Nagoya and now Kobe, they each have their own attractive qualities and I am happy to have had the opportunity to spend time in each of them. One point of contention however, is that the summers here are a lot more humid than the ones I am used to in Australia. It gets really hot back home but a Japanese summer is so humid, it really is something you need to experience at least once!

One of the first things that was told to me is that St Michael's International School is "like one big family" and I agree with that one hundred percent. There is a definite sense of community at this school and I think that that translates to the teaching as well. Students are receiving a quality education in a truly holistic sense, and in the end, that is where my job satisfaction stems from. I am happy to tell people about how proud I am of the school, so if you are ever interested in talking to me about any questions you have about St. Michael's International School, feel free to ask!

## Tribute to Jasmine Penarroja !

Like many international people in Japan, Jasmine Shallcross, as she was when she arrived, did not ever have a plan to come to Japan. She simply went with what life gave her and she arrived in 2010 with her partner Marcel Penarroja, a newly appointed teacher at SMIS.

Whilst not originally a member of SMIS staff, Jasmine became a part of the community from the beginning, not only because Marcel was her partner, but because of her warm, friendly and charming personality; and of course because of the school's friendly and family orientated ethos.

After working in several different positions in the local area, Jasmine began to work at SMIS as a Teaching Assistant in 2013, becoming a fully-fledged member of the SMIS family.

Jasmine embodied our school values and demonstrated them not only in her work with students, but in everything she did. She also demonstrated the Japanese trait of doing something to the very best of your ability. Whatever challenge she took on she would give it her all and the results would always be superb.

Jasmine was kind, caring, creative, positive, stubborn, supportive, naughty, generous, fun, honest, cheeky, unique...she had all the best qualities that you look for in a person. She listened, she gave good advice, she cared, she made you feel like you could do anything...just like she could.

*those we love  
don't go away  
they walk  
beside us  
every day  
unseen, unheard  
but always near  
still loved,  
still missed  
and very dear.*

Jasmine & Marcel, and later with Teo, didn't want to miss out on anything! They took advantage of every opportunity to do things and were always at the heart of anything fun, making sure you were having fun too. They endeavoured to make the most of their time and their life together.

Like all her friends and family, I feel so happy that I got to have Jasmine in my life. I'm honoured that she was my friend and I hers. Life is short...we do not know what is round the corner. I miss my friend every day but I hope that I, and all of the many others whose lives she touched with her joy and her love, can learn from her spirit and make the most of life and be the kind of amazing, beautiful friend to others that she was to us.

-Rachael de-Bourne-



# In loving memory of Jasmine Penerroja

Jasmine was consistently a person who cared about the people she worked with, whether it was the teachers, students or school community. She is always missed at school.



Jasmine was an inspiration.

A dedicated support assistant who cared deeply for each and every child she came into contact with. She will be sorely missed by all. Jasmine and Marcel were one of the first people who introduced me to the area when I first came to Kobe and I will never forget her kindness and love of life.



Jasmine seemed to naturally possess so many genuine qualities that we all aspire to have. She was sincere, compassionate, kind and dedicated. She was interesting, fun and easy to be with. If I had to pick one quality that made Jas special to me, I would say it's her warmth. You sit at the same table and immediately you feel welcomed by her warm smile. With her presence, she just made you feel like what you say mattered to her and she was truly enjoying your company. Soon, you found yourself feeling warm inside, too. When I remember the times I spent with her, I can recall that warmth radiating from her and from myself by being with her. It's a very special quality that once you are touched by it, you never forget. It just stays with you. Every time I remember Jas, I feel warm. I am thankful for the time Jaz, Marcel and Teo spent with us at St. Michael's.



Jaz grabbed life by the horns and gave it a good shake!



Creative, inspirational, kind and generous. She was a ray of sunshine to everyone she met with her hearty laugh and mischievous energy.



May the winds of Heaven blow softly and whisper in your ear how much we love and miss you and wish that you were here.



## London Gathering 2017!



Attending the London gathering was a new experience for me and I wasn't sure what to expect. It is so long since I taught at St Michael's that I thought I wouldn't know anyone and nobody would know me! However, I decided to venture out of the rural comfort of Lincolnshire for the weekend and book a room at the Tavistock hotel.



What a pleasant surprise I had! Three 'old timers' (meant in the nicest possible way) remembered me. It was lovely catching up with Tazu, Lynva and Hiromi; none of whom had changed a bit!!!!

Tazu had brought memorabilia for us all to enjoy. I especially liked the 70th Anniversary booklet which brought back memories of the 30th! Hearing the exploits of fellow teachers, whilst enjoying food and wine, made me realise that St Michael's has changed, and yet doesn't change very much. The love is always there.

Thanks to all who made this such a wonderful experience.

Liz Hoo (Dolby)



## Where are you now?

### Ami Bavishi

I was at St. Michaels in the early 1990s with my younger brother Jay. My family returned to Princeton, NJ, our hometown, in 1992, where both Jay and I continued our education. Currently I serve as a Vice President in Investor Relations for Burns McClellan, a private biotechnology communications consulting firm based out of New York. I have worked in investor relations for 7 out of 10 years since completing my undergraduate degree in biology at Duquesne University in May 2007. In this role I have had the opportunity to work with a variety of companies in the biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries at various stages of development, facilitating everything from day-to-day activities, quarterly financial communication, investor days and clinical readouts. I also received a Masters in Public Health in 2011 from George Washington University and spent a year working for the UK government (in New York) working in business development for life science companies. While not having an opportunity to return to Japan since leaving in 1992, I was able to visit in August 2017 for a week. In that week, the highlights of my trip included returning to Kobe, visiting St. Michael's, my old neighborhood and familiar areas of Kobe that still felt like home and spending a few days in Tokyo. While the trip was short, it was more than I could have hoped for. I hope to return again soon (and not in 25 years' time).



### Usman Kazoe

Greetings! My name is Usman Kawazoe, I am a SMIS alumnus born and raised in Kobe, Japan, and I am an aspiring filmmaker. I am currently working on a passion project with my brother who is a film director, and was featured in the 2016 Cannes Film Festival Short Film Catalogue. This passion project is a dramatisation of the adversities biracial and mixed people go through living in Japan. Our goal for this film is to not only shed light on these issues that we still face on a day-to-day basis but to help guide those who are currently struggling with their identity. After a full year of prep we have finally finished the script, assembled a team of professionals, and received a film grant from the Kobe Film Commissioner. As of early October, we have launched a crowdfunding campaign to fund this film and I kindly ask for your support. For those who are interested please check out our crowdfunding campaign for more information on the film and how you can support us! <https://camp-fire.jp/projects/view/25454>

### Jamahl Warren Cross



Now I live in Sannomiya with my wife and two children. My son is 2 and a half years old and my daughter is 14 months old. I am a proud father of two amazing kids!

### Helen McPherson

Hello. I moved from Osaka to Bangkok this summer and am now working at KIS International School. If you are in Bangkok, maybe we can set up a reunion here sometime.     October 2017

#### Obituary

Miss Grace Michi Konishi passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2017. Miss Konishi worked as the ELS Secretary for many years. Her life was celebrated at St. Michael's Cathedral on 25<sup>th</sup> July.

May her soul rest in peace!

### *Upcoming Events!*

#### **Alumni (SMA) Party 2018!**

**Come and Join us!**

**Saturday 3rd March**

**5pm-7pm**

**At School Cafeteria**

**Bring your friends and family!**

**Bazaar 2018 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

**London Gathering in July**

### *Breeze À La Carte*

Who founded the Breeze  
in 1969????

Miyoko Kawano, Komei  
Kure, Irene Cads, Satoru  
Hamada, Seiichiro Kaku  
and Shoran Yang



## SUPPORTING ST. MICHAEL'S



*Why not Share your Happiness and Support St. Michael's!*



Births, marriages, graduation, new jobs and other special occasions all fill us full of joy and happiness. Sharing your good news multiplies its benefits for your happiness and longer-term life satisfaction, so the next time something good happens to you, don't keep it to yourself!

Whenever you feel like sharing your happiness, you might want to share it with St. Michael's by making a donation. Your love and support for the school will help St. Michael's continue to provide an excellent education for many years to come, in a safer and better-equipped building.

Making a donation is even easier with our **PayPal** account – go to the school webpage and click 'Share Your Happiness' in the right-hand column. There you are! All you need to do, then, is click on the link at the bottom of the page! Please wait for another few seconds after making a donation. A page will appear for us to thank you and for you to share your reason for your happiness if you wish!

The ***Jewel Donor Recognition Club*** recognises the outstanding support of our most generous donors.

St. Michael's is looking forward to welcoming the very first diamond donor to this illustrious community of donors. *Will it be you?*

Jewel Donor Recognition Club	
Diamond	¥5,000,000 +
Ruby	¥1,000,000- ¥4,999,999
Emerald	¥500,000-¥999,999
Sapphire	¥100,000-¥499,999

### A COMMUNITY OF DONORS DONATIONS 2017-2018

**SAPPHIRE**

Amitabh & Ruchi Bothra

**DONATIONS 2016-2017**

**RUBY**

Shekhar Shah  
70th Anniversary Gala Ball  
***Anonymous***

**EMERALD**

Pradip Jhaveri  
Smita Jitendra Jhaveri  
***St. Michael's Association (Alumni)***

**SAPPHIRE**

Norimoto & Sumiko Gotoh  
Francis Lin  
Noro Eikichi  
Chih-We Mou  
***Anonymous***  
Eamon Lynch  
Piya Sarkar  
Tamanna, Akash, Hiren Zaveri  
He Yexiang  
Avani & Maahi Shah  
Sahil Doshi  
Pearl Export Jewels  
Winter Festival  
Anglican churches  
Mr & Mrs Childers  
Valentine's Dance  
June Murata  
Anonymous  
Maher Zaveri  
Amit Jhaveri  
Leon & Sean Bibby, in memory of their grandfather Fumio Suzuki  
Chandni & Sagar Jhaveri  
Nikita, Natasha & Dylan Javeri  
Akash & Yash Wadhwani

**DONATIONS 2015-2016**

**RUBY**

Vasant Shah

**EMERALD**

***St. Michael's Association (Alumni)***  
***Anonymous***

**SAPPHIRE**

Fritz Leonhardt, in memory of his wife, Ana Maria  
Keyji Johnsen  
70's Disco

***Anonymous***

Katsuyoshi Koide  
Daimo Shitaka  
Anonymous  
Silent Auction  
Tamanna & Akash Zaveri  
Satoru Hamada

***Bold and italicized = Repeat Donor***

**St. Michael's Association**

ST.MICHAEL'S INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
17-2 NAKAYAMATE-DORI 3-CHOME CHUO-KU  
KOBE 650-0004 JAPAN  
<http://www.smis.org>  
E-mail: [alumni@smis-mail.org](mailto:alumni@smis-mail.org)  
TEL: (078) 231-8885 FAX : (078) 231-8899

